

SWOSU Accepting Nominations for Oklahoma Tech Trek Camp for Girls

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford will be the site for Oklahoma's first Tech Trek Camp that is designed to increase girls' participation in math and science. Nominations are now being accepted for the July 14-20 camp that will allow 30 current seventh graders from around the state to attend the Tech Trek Camp. Organizing the event are (front from left): Debbie Brown, media coordinator; Emily Brewer, camper coordinator; Lynne Thurman, fundraising coordinator; and Lisa Appeddu, camp director. Back row from left—Patsy Parker, Weatherford branch AAUW President; Cindi Albrightson, volunteer coordinator; Kathy O'Neal, family coordinator; Andrea Holgado, camp co-director; and Lori Gwyn, camp co-director.

Thirty current seventh grade girls from around the state will have the opportunity this July to experience Oklahoma's first Tech Trek Camp, and nominations are now being accepted for the July 14-20 camp at Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

SWOSU, in partnership with Weatherford's American Association of University Women (AAUW) branch, was one of only five sites across the United States which received a \$10,000 grant to cover start-up costs to pilot this program outside of California. Tech Trek is AAUW's hope to increase participation in math and science.

Tech Trek is a week-long summer math and science camp uniquely designed for girls entering the eighth grade during the 2013-14 school year. Campers stay on the SWOSU campus during the week of Tech Trek while they learn about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM); perform cool experiments and hands-on activities; and interact with female role models who are already working in STEM fields. Aside from a \$50 registration fee, the camp is provided free of charge to Oklahoma residents.

Tech Trek invites camper nominations, which are due by February 22. Tech Trek is looking for campers across the state of Oklahoma who are excited by math and science; have at least a "B" average with the potential to excel; have not necessarily had the opportunity for experiences like Tech Trek; and have a high level of maturity when interacting with peers. Current seventh-grade girls will need to be identified and nominated by their middle school teachers. After being nominated and then completing a camper application, 30 girls will be selected for the inaugural year of Tech Trek at SWOSU.

Camp director Lisa Appeddu said the university experience allows girls to see themselves seeking higher education and realizing the opportunities that come with a college degree.

For more information about the camp, nomination materials, volunteer opportunities or to donate to Tech Trek, please visit the website <http://www.swosu.edu/biology/tech-trek/> or email techtrek@swosu.edu.